

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. 95-006; Notice 1]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by its manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is March 9, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Section, Room 5109, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. (Docket hours are from 9:30 am to 4 pm)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Bayler, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i)(I) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being

readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Petitions for eligibility decisions may be submitted by either manufacturers or importers who have registered with NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR part 592. As specified in 49 CFR 593.7, NHTSA publishes notice in the **Federal Register** of each petition that it receives, and affords interested persons an opportunity to comment on the petition. At the close of the comment period, NHTSA decides, on the basis of the petition and any comments that it has received, whether the vehicle is eligible for importation. The agency then publishes this decision in the **Federal Register**.

J.K. Motors, Inc. of Kingsville, Maryland ("J.K.") (Registered Importer 90-006) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles that J.K. believes to be substantially similar are the 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars that were manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared the non-U.S. certified 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars to their U.S. certified counterparts, and found those vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

J.K. submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that the non-U.S. certified 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards in the same manner as their U.S. certified counterparts, or are capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that the non-U.S. certified 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standards Nos. 102 Transmission Shift Lever Sequence * * *, 103 Defrosting and Defogging Systems, 104 Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems, 105 Hydraulic Brake Systems, 106 Brake Hoses, 107 Reflecting Surfaces, 109 New Pneumatic Tires, 113 Hood Latch Systems, 116 Brake Fluid, 124 Accelerator Control Systems, 201

Occupant Protection in Interior Impact, 202 Head Restraints, 204 Steering Control Rearward Displacement, 205 Glazing Materials, 206 Door Locks and Door Retention Components, 207 Seating Systems, 209 Seat Belt Assemblies, 210 Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages, 211 Wheel Nuts, Wheel Discs and Hubcaps, 212 Windshield Retention, 214 Side Impact Protection, 216 Roof Crush Resistance, 219 Windshield Zone Intrusion, 301 Fuel System Integrity, and 302 Flammability of Interior Materials.

Additionally, the petitioner states that the non-U.S. certified 1993, 1994, and 1995 Mitsubishi 3000GT and 3000GT VR-4 passenger cars comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR Part 581.

Petitioner also contends that the vehicles are capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

Standard No. 101 Controls and Displays. (a) Substitution of a lens marked "Brake" for a lens with an ECE symbol on the brake failure indicator lamp; (b) recalibration of the speedometer/odometer from kilometers to miles per hour.

Standard No. 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment. (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamps and front sidemarkers; (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies which incorporated rear sidemarkers; (c) installations of a high mounted stop lamp.

Standard No. 110 Tire Selection and Rims. Installation of a tire information placard.

Standard No. 111 Rearview Mirror. Replacement of the passenger side rearview mirror with a U.S.-model component.

Standard No. 114 Theft Protection. Installation of a warning buzzer microswitch and a warning buzzer in the steering lock assembly.

Standard No. 115 Vehicle Identification Number. Installation of a VIN plate that can be read from outside the left windshield pillar, and a VIN reference label on the edge of the door or latch post nearest the driver.

Standard No. 208 Occupant Crash Protection. (a) Installation of a seat belt warning buzzer, wired to the seat belt latch; (b) installation to knee bolsters to augment the vehicles' air bag based passive restraint system. The petitioner states that the 1993 models are equipped with a driver's side air bag, and that the 1994 and 1995 models are equipped with both driver's and passenger's side air bags, all of which are identical to the air bags found on the vehicles' U.S.-certified counterparts.